

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: March 14, 2011
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Allen, Dixon, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean, O'Brien, and Pape

Absent: Council Member Moury

Also Present: Mayor Morton; William Spagnol, Manager; Robert McTiernan, Solicitor; Judith Miller, Assistant Manager; Robert Cygrymus, Director of Community Services; Chief John Mackey; Gerard Duke, Municipal Planner; Mark Romito, Finance Director; Mike Smith, Environmental Engineer; Jean Statler, Municipal Engineer

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on February 28, 2011 to discuss real estate issues. An Executive Session of Council was held tonight, March 14, 2011 to discuss Police Personnel issues.

Reports of Officials

4. Librarian's Report

Jackie Williams, Youth Services Assistant, stated that the tax forms are available in the Library and the AARP Free Tax Aide is still available on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis. Upcoming programs include a workshop using art therapy with children and teens presented by a Seton Hill professor on Saturday, March 19th; and on Tuesday, March 22nd, staff from Senator Pippy's office will be at the library to assist with the completion of the PA 1000 form for property tax and rent rebate. The Gala's theme this year is Night at the Races, Sip, Savor and Support, being held on Friday, May 6th from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. There will be a silent and Chinese auctions, also live race calling. Tickets are \$25 and you will receive mint jello, beer, wine, sweet tea, traditional Kentucky Derby fare. You will get to name a horse and you will have

entrance at the book sale preview which will be held in Council Chambers. This event is for adults 21 and older. Tickets are available at the front desk at the library and on the website. For more information on the Gala or any other library program, visit www.bethelparklibrary.org

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief Mackey announced that the Bethel Park Police Pals vs. Pittsburgh Steelers Basketball Game will be held on Friday, April 29th at 8:00 p.m. There will be pre-game activities at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$9 at the door. Proceeds benefit Bethel Park Police Pals and the Charles Bonczek Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund is designed to assist a Bethel Park High School student who is interested in a career in law enforcement. As such, they usually sign up for our LEAP Program and if they decide to go on to college and study for a career in law enforcement, we offer scholarships for those students. It is a worthy cause and we hope you can come out and enjoy the night. It is always a good time when the Steelers come into town.

This is the time of year that we like to remind our residents about their house numbers. We want to make sure that every house is clearly marked with their address as this is extremely important if you call the police, fire or paramedics. The ordinance states that you have a minimum 4-inch numbers on the front of your house that is clearly visible. If your house is far away from the main roadway, we ask that you post a sign with your address. This will assist first-responders to get there quickly. If you have any questions about this ordinance, you can contact us at the Police Department.

Crime Prevention Officer, Tom Rigatti, asked me to pass on information to any resident who owns a business in Bethel Park or works in Bethel Park, that we are constantly updating our emergency contact list. For the same reason that we bring up the house numbers, it is important in an emergency that we have a good phone number for you. It is easy to do as you can go on to the Bethel Park website www.bethelpark.net and click on the Police tab. There is a link where you can go on and update your emergency contact information. We encourage you to do so.

Last year, the Police Department participated in a program sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration called the National Take Back Initiative. We are participating once again this year and it will be on Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center. If you have unwanted prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications in your home that are expired or you no longer need, you can safely dispose of them by showing up at the Community Center. There will be a box where you can drop the pills into it. Chief Mackey emphasized that this is for pills only, no liquids. We took in several pounds of unwanted medications from people and it is much safer to dispose of them this way rather than flushing them down the toilet or down the drain, obviously, for environmental reasons. Again, Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Police Academy and LEAP Programs are about to end this year. There are only a couple of weeks left. We are already accepting applications for next year. If you have any interest in either program, please register early.

The emergency number for the Bethel Park Police is 412-833-2000. You can call 911 and your call will be answered, but it will be through the County 911 system. They then take the information and ring it to the Dispatchers at the Municipal Building. It may take longer to dial the 412-833-2000 number, but it will get answered quicker. We encourage you to write the number down near your phone for a Police, fire or EMS emergency.

6. Fire Chief's Report

None

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton announced the ninety-plus birthdays for March. Mayor announced that there are two Boy Scouts in attendance who are here to observe the meeting and work on communication merit badge. He also mentioned that the flag is flying at half-mast because the last World War I Veteran passed away at the age of 110 and the President asked that it be flown at half-mast in his honor.

The Mayor introduced Kristen Normile who wrote the new book about Bethel Park which is on sale currently. Kristen is the chairman of the upcoming Bethel Park 125th Anniversary Celebration.

Ms. Normile asked the community to get involved as much as they can for the celebration. There will be different events and activities throughout the year. The committee meets every first Tuesday of the month at the Community Center for those who would like to be involved in organizing the events and activities. The events being planned are a time capsule dedication, living history tours through the historical Bethel cemetery, a Black and Orange Ball, heightened Community Day activities such as cupcake wars bakeoff, cupcake eating contest, concerts for adults and kids, business gala and library lectures on the history of Bethel Park and much more. Bethel Park High School student Diana DelRosso is being congratulated for her winning concept for the logo that you will see on banners around town very soon. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Municipal Manager William Spagnol said that the job Kristen did on the book was tremendous. It represents Bethel Park very well and her hard work is appreciated.

Ms. Normile said that it was truly a labor of love. She had many people who dedicated their time and stories and adventures.

Mr. McLean said that he knows Kristen from working on the Community Foundation. Although he has not seen the book yet, he was around and listening

when she put it all together. It takes a great deal of time, energy and focus to put into a book like that and she did Bethel Park very well. It takes a person like Kristen that can focus the way she did, to listen and understand in order to do this, and I know you are not originally from Bethel Park. People are raving about the book and cannot wait to look at it.

Ms. Normile said she thanked Council and said that although she is a Keystone Oaks graduate, she has a Bethel Park heart.

Mr. Allen mentioned that even though the Fire Department is not present, the Fire Report is on the table if anyone wants a copy of it.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 14

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2011. Motion Carried 8-0. Council Member Moury absent.

Public Hearing Minutes of February 28, 2011

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of February 28, 2011. Motion Carried 8-0. Council Member Moury absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #031411 in the amount of \$1,480,915.73. Motion Carried 8 - 0. Council Member Moury absent.

10. Residents' Comments (non-agenda items only)

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

11. General Policy and Finance Items

None

Mr. Harrison made mention for the benefit of the Scouts that although there is not much on it, there is an agenda on the table.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

12. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

13. Planning and Zoning Items

Ordinance – Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance modifying traffic impact provisions, handicapped parking space requirements and parking lot pole base height.

Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Duke to elaborate on this issue for the residents.

Mr. Duke stated that the provision in front of you is dealing with three measures. The first is on traffic impact requirements. PennDOT since changed their requirements and ours were not in coordination. This is now changing our requirements to be the same. The second is to make handicapped parking stall sizes to match with building code and ADA requirements. The third is for light pole base heights. There were no requirements before and now it is set at four feet.

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance modifying traffic impact provisions, handicapped parking space requirements and parking lot pole base height. Motion Carried 8 - 0. Council Member Moury absent.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

14. Health Safety and Welfare Items

None

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

15. Citizens' Comments – Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

16. Public Works and Maintenance Item

Motion by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to award the 2011 Road Program Contract to Shields Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$879,900.00 in accordance with the Municipal Engineer's correspondence dated February 22, 2011. Motion Carried 8 - 0. Council Member Moury absent.

Mr. O'Brien announced that, through the efforts of the Assistant Manager, Judy Miller, we have an Army Brigadier General Thomas E. Ayres, Assistant Judge Advocate General for Military Law and Operations, a Bethel Park graduate and how resides in Virginia, and his parents still live in Bethel Park. He is going to be our guest at the Veterans' Memorial morning ceremony and also at the cemetery as a guest speaker in later morning. This will be the third General that we have

had from Bethel Park as part of our services for Memorial Day and we are very excited. We hope everyone comes out and wishes him well.

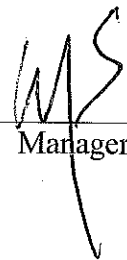
Mr. O'Brien also mentioned that some time ago he announced that we found a Jeffrey Michael Walsh, a Vietnam Veteran, who was killed in Vietnam. We are going to recognize him on Memorial Day. Through the efforts of that exercise and putting the word out on the street, Diane Kletch, wife of past Police Chief Joseph Kletch, approached him about another young man lost in Vietnam. His name was Leo John Kelly. According to heresay, he was from Brookside Farms. Because the zip code from Brookside reads Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and had an Upper St. Clair attachment, he does not register on the wall in Washington, D.C. as a Bethel Park resident. We have suspicion to believe that he was a Bethel Park resident. A few items are known about Second Lt. Kelly. In May 1967, the Third Battalion Fourth Marines was in Okinawa for reimbursement. They returned to Vietnam on May 16 and immediately committed to operation Hickory. Hickory is conducted in the southern part of the DMZ and was attempting to clean out the NBA's infrastructure in that area. On May 19th, operations just south of the DMZ, he was hit and killed with three other men.

We would like to get this information correctly and have him put on Memorial Day and to be with our other lost, Jeffrey Michael Walsh. If anyone was in Bethel Park in 1967 and has any information on Second Lt. Kelly, please contact Mr. O'Brien at home at 412-831-0774 or the Assistant Municipal Manager, Judy Miller, at 412-831-6800, extension 201. It would help us if his relatives know more. We would like to give this young man the proper recognition that is deserved.

Also, Mr. O'Brien mentioned that one of our Municipal family, Sharon Zimmermann, really needs our help. She has been so good to us over the years, wonderful to the Veterans' Memorial, never asks for anything and is always willing to give a hand and is going through such difficult time right now. She has been a wonderful person to all of us, a wonderful person to the Municipality and has been a fine public servant and we ask that everyone pray for Sharon for her recovery.

17. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 7:58 P.M.



Manager